

RBS and RUS, USDA

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you have incurred, or Financings you have made. You must include a statement to this effect in any solicitation provided to investors. Example: You may not represent or imply that "USDA stands behind the RBIC" or that "Your capital is safe because the Secretary's experts review proposed investments to make sure they are safe for the RBIC."

§ 4290.503 RBIC's adoption of an approved valuation policy.

(a) *Valuation guidelines.* You must prepare, document and report the valuations of your Loans and Investments in accordance with the Valuation Guidelines for SBICs issued by SBA. These guidelines may be obtained from SBA's Investment Division or at <http://www.sba.gov/INV/valuation.pdf>.

(b) *The Secretary's approval of valuation policy.* You must have a written valuation policy approved by the Secretary for use in determining the value of your Loans and Investments. You must either:

(1) Adopt without change the model valuation policy set forth in section III of the Valuation Guidelines for SBICs; or

(2) Obtain the Secretary's prior written approval of an alternative valuation policy.

(c) *Responsibility for valuations.* Your board of directors, managing member(s), or general partner(s) will be solely responsible for adopting your valuation policy and for using it to prepare valuations of your Loans and Investments for submission to the Secretary. If the Secretary reasonably believes that your valuations, individually or in the aggregate, are materially misstated, he or she reserves the right to require you to engage, at your expense, an independent third party acceptable to the Secretary to substantiate the valuations.

(d) *Frequency of valuations.* (1) You must value your Loans and Investments at the end of the second quarter of your fiscal year, and again at the end of your fiscal year.

(2) On a case-by-case basis, the Secretary may require you to perform valuations more frequently.

(3) You must report material adverse changes in valuations at least quar-

terly, within 30 days following the close of the quarter.

(e) *Review of valuations by independent public accountant.* (1) For valuations performed as of the end of your fiscal year, your independent public accountant must review your valuation procedures and the implementation of such procedures, including adequacy of documentation.

(2) The independent public accountant's report on your audited annual financial statements (SBA Form 468) must include a statement that your valuations were prepared in accordance with your approved valuation policy.

§ 4290.504 Equipment and office requirements.

(a) *Computer capability.* You must have a personal computer with access to the Internet and be able to use this equipment to prepare reports, for which you will receive the necessary software, and transmit such reports to the Secretary. In addition, you must have the capability to send and receive electronic mail.

(b) *Facsimile capability.* You must be able to receive facsimile messages 24 hours per day at your primary office.

(c) *Accessible office.* You must maintain an office that is convenient to the public and is open for business during normal working hours.

§ 4290.506 Safeguarding the RBIC's assets/Internal controls.

You must adopt a plan to safeguard your assets and monitor the reliability of your financial data, personnel, Portfolio, funds and equipment. You must provide your bank and custodian with a certified copy of your resolution or other formal document describing your control procedures.

§ 4290.507 Violations based on false filings and nonperformance of agreements with the Secretary or SBA.

The following shall constitute a violation of this part:

(a) *Nonperformance.* Failure to perform any of the requirements of any Debenture or of any written agreement with the Secretary or SBA.

(b) *False statement.* In any document submitted to the Secretary or SBA:

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(1) Any false statement knowingly made; or

(2) Any misrepresentation of a material fact; or

(3) Any failure to state a material fact.

(4) A material fact is any fact that is necessary to make a statement not misleading in light of the circumstances under which the statement was made.

§ 4290.508 Compliance with non-discrimination laws and regulations applicable to federally-assisted programs.

In conducting your operations and providing Assistance to your Portfolio Concerns, you must comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d-1 *et seq.*), the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 (Pub. L. 94-135, Title III), and Title V of the Equal Credit Opportunity Act (15 U.S.C. 1691 *et seq.*) and the following regulations promulgated by USDA to implement and enforce such laws: 7 CFR part 15.

§ 4290.509 Employment of USDA or SBA officials.

(a) Without the Secretary's prior written approval, for a period of two years after the date of your most recent issuance of Leverage or after the receipt of any assistance as defined in paragraph (b) of this section, you are not permitted to employ, offer employment to, or retain for professional services, any person who:

(1) Served as an officer, attorney, agent, or employee of SBA or USDA within one year before such date; and

(2) In that capacity, occupied a position or engaged in activities which, in SBA's or the Secretary's determination, involved discretion with respect to the issuing of Leverage or the granting of such assistance.

(b) For purposes of this section, "assistance" means financial, contractual, grant, managerial, or other aid, including licensing, certifications, and other eligibility determinations made by USDA or SBA, and any express decision to compromise or defer possible litigation or other adverse action.

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MANAGEMENT AND COMPENSATION

§ 4290.510 Approval of RBIC's Investment Adviser/Manager.

(a) *General.* You may employ an Investment Adviser/Manager who will be subject to the supervision of your board of directors, managing member(s), or general partner(s). If you have Leverage or plan to seek Leverage, you must obtain the Secretary's prior written approval of the management contract. Approval of an Investment Adviser/Manager for one RBIC does not indicate approval of that manager for any other RBIC.

(b) *Management contract.* The contract must:

(1) Specify the services the Investment Adviser/Manager will render to you and to your Portfolio Concerns; and

(2) Indicate the basis for computing Management Expenses.

(c) *Material change to approved management contract.* Any proposed material change must be approved by both you and the Secretary in advance. If you are uncertain whether the change is material, submit the proposed revision to the Secretary.

§ 4290.520 Management Expenses of a RBIC.

The Secretary must approve your initial Management Expenses and any increases in your Management Expenses.

(a) *Definition of Management Expenses.* Management Expenses include:

(1) Salaries;

(2) Office expenses;

(3) Travel;

(4) Business development, including finders' fees;

(5) Office and equipment rental;

(6) Bookkeeping; and

(7) Expenses related to developing, investigating and monitoring investments.

(b) Management Expenses do not include services provided by specialized outside consultants, outside lawyers and independent public accountants, if they perform services not generally performed by a venture capital company.